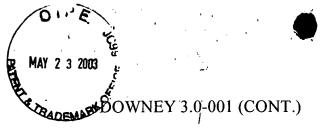
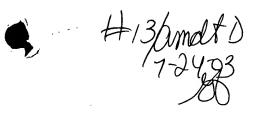
Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE he Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number TRAPE Request 09/845,230 Application Number For May 1, 2001 Filing Date Continued Examination (RCE) First Named Inventor **Transmittal** Joanne DOWNEY 3632 Address to: Art Unit Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents EV 286109759 US Examiner Name P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Attorney Docket Number | Downey 3.0-001 (CONT) This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s). Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final G considered as a submission even if this box is not checked. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on MAY 3 0 2003 Enclosed 1 Amendment/Reply Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s) Preliminary Amendment ii. Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required) b. The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. 3. Fees The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) (\$375)Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) (2-month extension of time) - \$205) 05/27/2003 KZEWDIE 00000093 09845230 375.00 OP Check in the amount of \$580 (\$375 + \$205)Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE GROUP 3600

In re patent application of JOANNÉ DOWNEY

Serial No.: 09/845,230 : Group Art Unit 3632

Filed: May 1, 2001

: Examiner Ingrid M. Weinhold

MOUNTING BRACKET For:

FOR CURTAIN RODS

May 23, 2003

Mail Stop AF **Commissioner for Patents** P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Enclosed are Figures 3, 8 and 13 showing the drawing changes marked in red for review and approval by the Examiner.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 21 to 30 and 44.

Please amend Claims 1 and 31 as follows: